THE MAKING OF AN INSPECTOR By Mike Uyehara

With seasoned senior staff retiring, vacancies throughout the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) are occurring at a faster rate than at any time in the history of the organization. The vacancies create shortages in the Inspection Section when inspectors retire or promote to other positions left by retirees. When left unfilled, these vacancies directly impact vital inspection services of hazardous waste generating and hazardous materials handling businesses.

On March 30, 2015, seven Hazardous Materials Specialist I (HMS I's) completed 320 hours of vigorous hazardous materials training and were temporarily assigned to inspection field offices for further hands-on training. During the Training Academy, the HMS Is were trained by more than 50 personnel from various County agencies, including the Fire Department and HHMD. Over 65 job related subjects were covered, including HHMD Policies & Procedures, statutory and regulatory requirements, hazardous waste classification, the California Environmental Reporting System, Chemistry for Inspectors, toxicology, industry specific classes and many others. The instructors not only shared their scientific knowledge but also their work experiences with the new hires. The new HMS Is, although new to HHMD, were not all rookies to the inspection process and collectively brought with them decades of inspection experience from positions in Environmental Health, Public Works or consultant jobs in private industry.



From left to right: Chris Benigno, Chris Chang, Malay Trivedi, Salette Amador, Pat Asvapathanagul, Rio Enriquez, and Carlo Van Rensburg

For the new HMS I's, their journey to HHMD began after receiving their bachelor's degree in physical or biological science and at least two years of work experience as a California Registered Environmental Health Specialist or other experience identifying, evaluating and controlling chemical and physical hazards. After gaining the necessary experience, they applied for their new career as an HMS I. Their hiring process began two to three years ago, followed by a written exam, two interviews and the previously mentioned extensive training. Recently all seven HMS I's were assigned to the inspection field offices to begin their careers in HHMD. To our new inspectors, welcome to our HHMD family, and we wish you the best in your new assignments!!

NEW EMPLOYEES



The new clerical staff in the Data Operation Unit are from lef to right:

Perla Garcia, Senior Typist Clerk; Karina Lopez, Senior Typist Clerk and Angelina Moreno,
Intermediate Typist Clerk. Welcome to our HHMD Family!!!

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	THE PLAN TO ME ON THE PART ON	
	Bill Jones	
	Chief	
	Health Hazardous	
	Materials Division	
	Haz Mat Release is a collective effort to foster an exchange of information. We welcome any questions or comments.	
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Haz Mat Release

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION



Volume 14



Message from HHMD Chief Bill Jones

This year is showing the same signs of improvement that are indicative of a recovering economy. Although this Department's budget is not quite where we want it to be, the businesses that support our program seem to be

improving their economic situation and as a result, staying in business.

This Unified Program Agency is also challenged with several years of vacancies and conflicting priorities that have left us with a large quantity of overdue inspections. What this means is less time to ensure all businesses are permitted and paying the appropriate fees. As we all know, small businesses tend to fluctuate in numbers, depending on the type of business and their location. With economic stability, businesses tend to remain but new businesses do not feel an obligation to come forward to this Division, pay fees and obtain permits. This results in a significant number of unpermitted businesses that impact our funding base.

To assist in a solution to this ongoing problem, the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) is exploring the possibility of creating a hazardous materials technician (HMT) item whose primary responsibility will be to address permit issues. What we found is that with the student workers, their term was often too short to get traction on any sustained effort to identify and permit facilities. HMT's may have a certain amount of authority to perform field work to investigate, potentially permit and "categorize" these businesses into the applicable fee grouping. This will mean the "creation" of a new item that will be added to our budgeted personnel, requiring the development of minimum requirements and duties. At this point, we anticipate looking at available data on permit related work to justify the necessary numbers required to perform permit activities.

On another front, two units within the Special Operations are looking at a need to bring new staff on board to meet emerging demands. For the Site Mitigation Unit (SMU), an increase in redevelopments and a surge in construction have brought a higher number of new cases. Also, with relatively new staff that requires close oversight by the SMU supervisor, he cannot take on a large number of sites himself (as the previous supervisor did). In the Cal ARP Unit, promulgation of new refinery regulations next summer is kicking off discussions of adding one or two additional staff to handle the increased demands, including extensive training requirements. While none of these proposals are finalized, it is anticipated to be in the FY 2016-17 fee proposal.

Courtesy and respect: these are two words that speak volumes in how we interact and relate not only to our colleagues and coworkers, but the public at large. Could it be called an extension of the golden rule most of us were taught as kids? Absolutely! There is a way of interacting and relating to everyone, no matter who it is - friend or foe, bosses, subordinates, coworkers or concerned citizens. Periodically, my office receives correspondence, saying one of two things: that our staff was very patient, helpful, courteous and friendly, or, that someone was rude, short and difficult. We all have to think about how we come across to everyone we interact with. This very simple notion is a key to productivity, happiness and fulfillment. Treating everyone with simple courtesy and respect is not difficult, and here is another idea, smile a little. You come across differently and positively with this very small gesture.

Again, we have been reminded of the frailty of life and the importance of putting things into perspective with the untimely passing of HMS III George Terastvadsadrian. When each of us looks back on our lives, will we be able to say we had integrity, commitment, loyalty and a balance between our work and personal lives? Did we enrich the lives of our friends and family? Did we devote time and attention when and where necessary? Is each of us able to say we enjoyed our jobs, worked hard and are proud of our accomplishments? There is something to be said about spending a significant amount of time working and interacting with our colleagues and friends at work and developing relationships that not only make the organization stronger but the friendships as well. We were heartbroken and upset with the passing of yet another coworker, but again, we rallied in support of each other, and I was very proud of the way we all helped in getting through this most difficult time. I encourage anyone having ongoing difficulties and who might need to speak with someone to seek the assistance of this Department's Peer Support group or the other resources available to all of us. My hat goes off to this Department and executive staff for their support, caring and presence at the flag ceremony, services and internment.

My final thoughts have to do with what is going on today with all the new tools, new processes, new data that is being collected and will be available electronically, and how that will change management of local programs in the future. First, any UPA that is not doing their job will be very obvious. Information on inspections, inspection frequencies, proper documentation and follow up will all be collected and available not only to Cal EPA but to the world. Critics will be able to look down to the inspector level and see what is going on, the number of inspections, if they have a past history of no enforcement, if they are not documenting properly, and the list goes on and on. While I've never been concerned that the Division as a whole has been doing everything to be successful, the level of scrutiny is unparalleled in history. We can make excuses or we can step up and do what is necessary and expected. I am confident HHMD will meet and exceed all the new demands and expectations.

ENVISION CONNECT REMOTE UPDATEBy Debbie Bernhard

In September 2008, Assembly Bill 2286 was signed into law requiring all regulated local government agencies, known as the Unified Program Agencies, to submit compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) activities electronically to the California Environmental Protection Agency through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). The assembly bill took effect in January 2009 with a deadline of Jan. 1, 2013, for electronic reporting.

To meet this requirement, the Los Angeles County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) initially began entering all CME activities manually into CERS; however, with approximately 12,000 routine inspections per year, along with compliance and enforcement activities, a long-term resolution would be needed to automate reporting to the State. Although the Los Angeles County CUPA had been a longtime user of the Envision Connect software program for database management, the inspectors in 2013 had not begun using the field inspection software, Envision Connect Remote (ECR). By June 2014, the HHMD Technical Services Unit began training pilot users in ECR, and within three months more than 40 field inspectors went live using the field inspection software to conduct inspections, electronically capturing inspection violations, observations and corrective actions, as well as operators' signatures. Currently, there are more than 60 ECR users throughout the Inspections, California Accidental Release Prevention and Emergency Operations Sections.

CERS UPDATE By Teresa Quiaoit/ G.Terastvadsadrian

When we look back to when implementation of the California Electronic Reporting System (CERS) became mandatory in 2013, the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) has made great strides through continued public outreach efforts; the implementation of an electronic field inspection system; the transmission of most of our compliance monitoring and enforcement (CME) data using the CERS Integration Wizard (CIW).

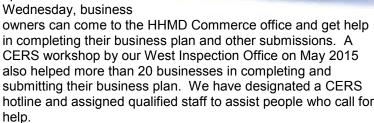
In the coming year, we look forward to incorporating the various functions of CIW to close the gaps between the HHMD database and CERS. Some of the features and functions of CIW will be incorporated into the Data Operation Unit's daily functions. These would include obtaining new CERS ID numbers, importing Participating Agency (PA) files, updating facility ownership information and processing business plan submittals. In the mean time, we continue reviewing and processing the submittals directly through CERS. The deadline for businesses to submit their business plan electronically for fiscal year 2015 was April 1, 2015. Between December 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015, 11,888 program elements were submitted and more than 11,000 elements were processed by our clerical staff. Even though we still have a number of submittals that need to be reviewed, we have tackled successfully every challenge that CERS brought us. The progress of our CERS project is not only because of different initiatives and programs undertaken, but primarily due to our public outreach.



The implementation of ECR proved to be a seamless transition and further improved and streamlined the inspection process. Once ECR is synchronized, data captured in the field is transferred to the Envision Connect database. All aspects of compliance and monitoring activity of regulated facilities are now stored and available electronically in the database, helping HHMD go paperless by the end of this year. Envision Connect communicates directly with CERS via the CERS Integration Wizard offered by Decade Software Company.

Los Angeles County CUPA is one of the few agencies in California that has accomplished the challenging task of accurately, effectively and efficiently reporting thousands of CME records to the CERS.

HHMD's goal is to help the regulated businesses comply with State laws and regulations. CERS workshops are scheduled once a week in the Commerce office, in addition to going to libraries and schools through out LA County to train business owners and operators. Each Wednesday, business



HHMD has undertaken every possible way to help our business community. Unfortunately, despite our outreach efforts, there are still some businesses that have failed to comply with the CERS requirements. HHMD will continue to assist businesses, but for those who refused to comply with the regulation, this office will take all necessary actions including administrative enforcement order until every permitted businesses comply with CERS regulation.



HHMD RETIREES

BRUCE WOJCIK By Zenaida Songco

Bruce Wojcik retired from HHMD last March 2015 after 36 years of service. In 1970, he joined the US Air Force, and was assigned to the Aleutian Island in Shemya, Alaska, where he served for one year as a Security Policeman. Bruce served the remainder of his four years of military service at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, CA. He graduated from Cal State LA with a degree in Public Health and Microbiology in 1974 and in 1979 he began his career with the LA County Environmental Health. In 1982, he joined the LA County Hazardous Waste Control Program now known as HHMD. He was promoted to Supervising Hazardous Materials in 1989. His most memorable moments were videotaping the aftermath of the civil unrest in 1992 and assessing damaged hazardous waste facilities after the Northridge earthquake. Bruce will be greatly missed and we wish him a long, happy and adventurous retirement!!

SHAHIN NOURISHAD By Richard Clark

Shahin Nourishad retired last March after 30 years of county service. Shahin received a B.S. in biology from Cal State Hayward and a M.S. in environmental science from New York, Hunter College. In 1985, Shahin began her county service in the Inspection Section. She was promoted to an HMS III in the Site Mitigation Unit (SMU) in 1988. After 8 years in SMU, Shahin was promoted to the Technical Service Unit (TSU) as a Supervising Hazardous Materials Specialist.

In 1998, she transferred to the Inspections Section as the supervisor of the West office, and in 2000 she transferred back to Site Mitigation as the unit supervisor. Shahin remained in SMU until she retired. No one knew site mitigation better than Shahin, and no one worked harder than she did. We all hope that Shahin will finally get the rest she so much deserves during her retirement.

KEN SMITH

Ken retired from the LA County Fire Department after 32 years of service. He served as the Supervising Hazmat Specialist in the South West Office in Lomita and Pico Rivera Office before moving to the Emergency Response Unit as a supervisor. He retired last April 30, 2015. Ken has been a mentor for so many inspectors that his knowledge and expertise has helped them succeed in their work. Thank you Ken for sharing yourself to all of us. Good luck and we wish you a wonderful journey!!

DON THOMPSON

Don began his career with the LA County Health Department on November 1, 1980 and later moved to Environmental Hygiene in 1989. He joined HHMD on January 1, 1994 and enjoyed working with the Emergency Response Unit until his retirement last March 2015. We wish you the best on your retirement!!



IN MEMORIAM

GEVORK TERASTVADSADRIAN, a Hazardous Materials
Specialist III, passed away unexpectedly on June 1, 2015 after 18 years of service with LA County. He is best remembered as "a

techie guy," "George T," the go to person in HHMD when anyone had problems with computer or navigating with CERS or Envision. He is remembered as a humble, generous person, who did things out of goodness of his heart. He uplifted and encouraged his colleagues in the Technical Services Unit to endure the challenges of their assigned projects by saying "You can do it" and "Everything will be okay." Compassion and team work were his enduring qualities.

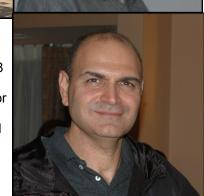
Remembering George will always bring a lot of happy memories and joy in the hearts of those he touched. Thank you George, for sharing your wonderful and inspiring life with us!













WHY DO WE LISTEN TO STORIES?

By Dan Zenarosa

Have you ever attended a boring presentation where attendees are heard saying, "That was a waste of my time" or "That talk was a disaster! Contrast this to a well-received presentation where the audience applauds the speaker with acclamations like "Wow! That was a great talk," and "I will definitely attend his presentation again at the next conference." What could be the underlying reason for the difference? Was it because of the important information that they did not receive or was it the way the message was presented? Most experts in public communication would agree that stories embedded in the presentation make a big difference in appreciating the message of the speaker.

It is said that storytelling is the oldest form of education. It started in early times when someone rose up in the midst of a tribal gathering and began to tell the location of water, food or shelter, or warned of danger or how to survive. It unified the community and created closer communications among its members.

Stories help us organize and remember information. There is a saying that "if we don't tell the children, they won't know, and if you stop remembering, you forget." Gordon Wells notes in his book, *Children Talk Their Way into Literacy*, that young children find it easier to assimilate new ideas when the information is presented in the form of a story and that even older students look to anecdotes to help them understand new concepts and link them to their lives.

According to Janet Litherland, the author of the *Wonderful Art* of *Storytelling*, "Stories have power. They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds." Stories can help us connect with and move the audience. It can also make the material being presented more memorable.

Research conducted by Chip and Han Heath at Stanford University on memory retention after eight one-minute speeches, showed that 63 percent of the audience can remember facts from the storytelling presentations compared with only five percent from the rest. The Heath brothers' book entitled, *Made to Stick*, describes how to make an idea stick: make it simple, unexpected, concrete, credible, emotional, and tell the idea as a story.

In the human anatomy, the limbic system of the brainespecially the amygdala and the hippocampus- is associated with emotion, behavior, motivation and long-term memory. This is the part of the brain that is designed to fast-track responses to important experiences based on smell, sight, touch, taste and feel. When we stimulate human emotions with a story, we point those emotions in certain directions. At a social level, stories replicate the neurological effect of attention in our individual brains. Therefore, if you want to get a person's attention or to act or to change one's behavior, we have to appeal to their emotions by way of storytelling.



According to Maya Angelou, an award-winning American author, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." The best way to make people feel is by storytelling.

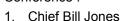
Despite this compelling evidence, we still see presentations that are boring and forgettable. The reasons are plentiful. Einstein once said, "Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results." Change is always difficult and most people avoid it whenever possible. Unless the left side of the brain (the reasoning lobe) is connecting with the limbic system (the seat of emotion), change in behavior and moving a person to action will be a struggle.

In our profession, the presentations that we give during the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) conferences and training academies are full of technical information involving laws and regulations, chemistry, toxicology, health and scientific data. Incorporating stories to this type of presentation would require more ingenuity and efforts. However, if we really want to be effective presenters, engaging the audience's attention, working to change their hearts and minds, inspiring them to act, then we need to focus on enhancing how we communicate through storytelling.

The CUPA Forum Board, which exists to assist in making training available to the CUPAs, has acknowledged the importance of giving effective presentation that they sponsor annually the Train the Trainer Training for CUPA inspectors. There will be training for an additional 25 candidates in November 2015 in Anaheim Training Center in the City of Anaheim. Each trainee will present a short talk, so be ready to tell your stories!!

DID YOU KNOW?

The following HHMD personnel have presented a talk to the CUPA Conference :



7. Ernie Hernandez

2. Jojo Comandante

8. Danny Yniguez

3. Teresa Quiaoit

9. Arturo Mico

4. Mario Tresierras

10. Raquel Doom

5. Fernando Florez

11. Paolo Zenarosa

6. Fariba Khaledan

12. Dan Zenarosa

REFINERY TASK FORCE

Since the last update, a lot has happened with the statewide Interagency Refinery Task Force (IRTF). In February, HHMD also responded in an emergency at the Mobil Exxon refinery in Torrance where a major explosion ripped apart a huge air pollution control structure. This resulted in a small fire and dispersal of catalyst material throughout the community. This event and the resulting response clearly indicated the need for enhanced regulations and operational clarification.

The IRTF has taken a look at refining requirements related to Cal-OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) that is being enhanced and amended as a regulatory package. In the unified program, the California Accidental Release Prevention program (Cal-ARP) deals with planning and preparedness requirements for hazardous materials discharged into the environment and/or offsite. Because these requirements are very similar, the development of regulations in both programs is on parallel tracks, both being almost identical in what is required. This tandem development of regulations will soon be released into a formal regulatory process with the hope that a final package will be completed next summer.

While these regulatory requirements only apply to refineries, it is anticipated that other high risk facilities will follow. From the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) perspective, these requirements will require a huge amount of time and resources at each of our refineries with a necessary increase in their fees and an increase in Cal-ARP staffing.



The other issue highlighted in the Governor's Refinery Task Force report related to improvements in emergency response components by local and refinery fire departments and other environmental or response agencies. These are two regulatory components being developed, one in the Area Plan (required in H&SC Chapter 6.95) and the other in Cal-ARP emergency planning requirements. In the Mobil Exxon response, issues occurred that seem to warrant more pre-planning and exercises by all response entities. Some of the issues included public notification, an explanation of what is required in public notices, coordination of the Incident Command Post, coordination of incident command between corporate and local fire departments, what happens with the IC when the city FD leaves, ongoing investigations and coordination of such effort for all responders. the response or absence of hazardous material inventory information, and other public disclosure steps that in the future would be important to "exercise".

LEGISLATION

This legislative session has seen a relatively small number of hazardous materials/waste bills that directly affect the Division. For the last several years, this has been a trend which is not always a negative; certainly as it concerns new requirements or programs for Unified Program Agencies (UPAs).

One bill SB 612, by Senator Hana Beth Jackson, is the third in a series of bills with major changes to the Business Plan and Inventory Program found in Health and Safety Code (HSC), Chapter 6.95. In SB 612, the following amendments or issues are addressed (that also go beyond Chapter 6.95):

- Business Plan Site Maps any additional requirements must go through the local governing body. In addition, Cal-EPA must receive a copy of any changes before the matter is voted on at the local governing body.
- Business vs. Facility characterization amended where applicable. This follows a decision last session to change everything to a "business" because of enforcement concerns.
- Confidential Business Information was decided to be handled administratively through a process or set of rules.
- Hazardous waste counting was limited to universal waste for now to exclude their inclusion in the determination of generator status (eg. large quantity generators).
- A general duty clause was added for HSC Chapter 6.95, Article 2 (Cal-ARP).
- A clear path to compliance for tanks in underground areas,

mainly supported by the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act, to broaden the number of tanks that can be excluded from underground storage tank requirements after regulations are developed by



the Office of the State Fire Marshall (with the exception of oil change type facilities already excluded).

- Used oil collection centers were placed under the preview of unified program agencies.
- An administrative process was added to the Medical Waste Act (MWA) handling administrative enforcement orders (AEO) that essentially copies protocols from the unified program AEO process. This would apply only to true local agencies implementing the MWA.

At this point, the CUPA Forum Bond is confident that SB 612 will be successful. A few other pieces of legislation include addressing Oil by Rail (AB 22); a number of DTSC bills; several household hazardous waste bills (both do not seem to be moving); enhanced penalties when a person extracts cannabinoids and caused an explosion (AB 849); oil and gas pipeline requirements (AB 1420); hazardous waste facilities permitting (SB 654); and fireworks (SB 522). For more information on any legislation, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov

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HHMD IS GOING PAPERLESS By Jojo Comandante

Electronic storage is replacing hard copy files. With the advent of smartphones and tablets, paper files have been slowly replaced by computer monitors and screens. Today, all one needs is a smartphone to pay for about anything. Online banking and payments have replaced making a deposit to ATM or mailing ones checks to pay our utilities or dues. Technology has revolutionized how we conduct our daily business.

HHMD recognizes this growing trend. In 2013-14, one of the HHMD Management Appraisal and Performance Plan (MAPP) Goals focused on electronic storage. The Site Mitigation Unit started electronic storage by converting all their file folders electronically. Instead of physical files, the Unit now has CDs that contain all the information for each clean up. How do you extend this electronic storage to the Inspection Section with over 50,000 facilities, active and inactive, and over 5 million pages of documents? This is not an easy task.

It's the third guarter of 2015, and Documentum, D2 for short, is coming. After months of preparation and evaluation, D2 is the electronic filing cabinet that will replace the Inspection Section hard copy files. Imagine all the file folders in the filing cabinet of all six satellite offices organized electronically in some sort of a host server. That's exactly how D2 will mimic our current filing cabinets. D2 is a content management software from EMC Corporation, a multinational, publicly traded company. D2 organizes all the files and documents in folders assigned to each facility, using the FA number as the unique key and each FA folder contains information attached to the FA number. Each document in the FA folder inherits all this information, known as metadata. Metadata include the street address, the ZIP code. city and dba. You can therefore search for a file folder using any of the metadata. Type in a ZIP code in the search box, and D2 will bring to you all the FA folders in that ZIP code.

In keeping with the organization of the physical file folders, D2 has sub-folders that represent routine inspection dates, enforcement documents and miscellaneous files. The inspection date subfolders should contain log sheet entries, inspection notes,

YOGA IN THE WORKPLACE By Camille Negrini

Take one big breath as you start to read this. Begin by closing your eyes and start to inhale and exhale. Then open your eyes slowly. Wasn't that a refreshing moment? This simple exercise helps one to focus and relax for a minute. As working individuals engrossed with our busy schedules, it is easy to forget to take breaks to rejuvenate. It is important for individuals who sit for long hours, to take time to stretch and perform desk exercises. If you want a healthier lifestyle that uses exercises to promote physical or mental control and overall well-being, try yoga.

Yoga is a simple meditation exercise that adopts specific bodily postures, and is widely practiced for health and relaxation. It is becoming very popular that there are more private studios and local gyms offering free classes than ever before. There are many different levels for all types of strengths: beginner, intermediate or advanced. Practicing yoga can relax your mind



NOVs (or inspection reports, as they are called now), compliance documents, email correspondence, etc., that pertain to the routine inspection date. Miscellaneous subfolders should contain annual submittals of required information and any other files that do not pertain to any routine inspection. Enforcement subfolders should contain files associated with AEOs or any other levels of enforcement.

Other key features of D2 include automatic purging, security control and detailed audit trail. Any file you place into D2 will carry with it a retention period for that type of file. At the end of the retention period, the file is automatically purged. Each user will have a defined level of access: read, write, edit or a combination of the three. In addition, D2 has an irrefutable audit trail. It can track which user made changes to the files or file folders.

An additional component to HHMD's electronic storage is Brava, a document viewer that allows the user to see what the document looks like without printing. Brava is very useful in redacting information for public review. If you type in some sequence of letters and numbers, Brava can search the entire document and block out all occurrences of that sequence. Type in a Social Security number, and Brava will redact it. It will not be seen by the public.

Soon, all Inspection staff will be trained on the use of D2 and Brava. The Inspection Section will no longer generate any paper files unless absolutely necessary. File folders will now be stored electronically. After the Inspection Section, all the other HHMD units will gradually transition into the use of D2 for their files. The vision with D2 and Brava is for HHMD to be able to share validated information to the entire Fire Department.

and body after a long day of stress. It has a very positive effect on your mind when done. The meditation can be difficult, as it requires an individual to remain still or assume certain postures; however, it is



important to allow your mind the time to relax.

Before attempting to do any of these yoga exercises, please consult with your doctor. For further information, go to: http://www.artofliving.org/yoga/off-yoga-mat/yoga-office.

Continuation of AEO Update:

- Refrigerant Exchange Corp. in Irwindale was fined for exceeding accumulation storage time periods, failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and failure to meet Excluded Recyclable Material requirements. Case submitted by J. McCarron and J. Stoute
- Seafood City Supermarkets in Los Angeles was fined for failure to prepare a manifest for the transport of hazardous waste, failure to transport hazardous waste with a registered hauler and lack of employee training. Case submitted by D. Yniguez.
- Solvay USA Inc. in Carson was fined for failure to report a release, and failure to submit a Risk Management Plan 5year update to the administrative agency. Case submitted by F. Khaledan.
- Sonic Industry in Torrance was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards and failure to prepare a Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure Plan. Case submitted by P. Zenarosa and R. Garcia.
- Sonic Plating Co. in Gardena was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards, failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and failure to meet requirements for the treatment of hazardous waste. Case submitted by M. Bravo and E. Bald.
- State of California Department of Water Resources in

CONTINUITY OF OPERATION PLANBy Amanuel Gebresilasie

The Fire Department recognizes that California is vulnerable to catastrophic events like earthquakes, fires, terrorist attacks and civil disturbances. In order to prepare for these possible occurrences, each division in the Department, including Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD), will create and update its business continuity plan. The Department's Homeland Security Section will combine all these plans and ideas to produce one comprehensive Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP). This will contain the order of succession, delegation of authority, devolution of control and direction, test and training, and reconstitution operations. This overarching document will serve as a guide on how to continue our operations without major disruption.

HHMD will assume various responsibilities during these types of incidents. It will respond to emergency incidents; mitigate any hazardous material release during catastrophic events; inspect/assess damage of businesses and residences in the impacted areas; provide technical hazardous materials information to collaborating agencies and this Department's operations personnel; and determine and declare the safety status of a site or building for entry and use by the public.

Disasters can occur suddenly and can overwhelm our capacity and resources to respond effectively to the needs of our affected communities. The April 2015 Nepal earthquake, where more than 8,800 people died and more than 23,000 people

- Lancaster was fined for failure to prepare a Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure Plan. Case submitted by D. Yniguez.
- Top Valu in Los Angeles was fined for failure to prepare a manifest for the transport of hazardous waste, improper disposal of hazardous waste and lack of employee training. Case submitted by T. Zedhar
- Transchem Inc. in Los Angeles was fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Bald and M. Uyehara.
- Trichromatic West Inc. in Commerce was fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and for failure to report a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by J. McCarron and J. Stoute.
- Triple Graphics in Los Angeles was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by J. Stoute and S. Townsend.
- Twin Eagles in Cerritos was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Poomiwatracanont.
- Ultimate Auto Body in Los Angeles was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by M. Florez-Nunez, J. Stoute and S. Townsend.
- Weber Metals Inc. in Paramount was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards, exceeding accumulation storage time periods and not meeting Biennial Report requirements. Case submitted by E. Bald.



were injured, is a grim reminder of the devastation of disasters. Although we are not able to prevent these events from occurring, we can prepare and strategize in advance. This way, we can protect ourselves and our families and continue our day to day business operations to serve our community.

The Fire Department is continuously enhancing the existing emergency preparedness plan to prepare for any disastrous incident in the future. Different kinds of trainings are constantly being undertaken including hazardous materials drills, earthquake drills and fire drills to prepare for catastrophic events. Hopefully, with preparation, planning and training, our heightened readiness for unexpected catastrophic events will effectively save lives and protect property and our environment.

AEO PENALTY BOX By Fernando Florez

The Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) reached yet another enforcement milestone with its 300th Administrative Enforcement Order (AEO) filed this year. Staff from the different sections collaborated with one another and jointly worked the cases. The violations were observed by inspectors, investigators and first responders while conducting routine inspections or responding to hazardous materials spills. In addition to remediating the problem, formal enforcement was taken and compliance was reached.

The following cases were settled during fiscal year 2013-2014:

- All California Truck & Auto Dismantling in Duarte was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste and failure to report a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by J. McCarron and S. Townsend.
- Alco Cad Nickel Plating Corp. in Los Angeles was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards, unauthorized treatment of hazardous waste, exceeding accumulation storage time periods and failure to maintain/ operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Bald.
- Alloys Cleaning Inc. in Los Angeles was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards and failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by M. Mekasha.
- Ames Appliances in Huntington Park was fined for exceeding accumulation storage time periods and improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by G. To.
- Anodizing Industries Inc. in Los Angeles was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards, failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and failure to meet requirements for the treatment of hazardous waste. Case submitted by A. Ang.
- Brother's Plating in Azusa was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards and for the treatment of hazardous waste by an unapproved method. Case submitted by J. Rooney.
- California Technical Plating in San Fernando was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards, failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste, and failure to conduct tank inspections. Case submitted by S. Brodsky.
- Chemetall US Inc. in La Mirada was fined for failure to conduct a hazardous waste determination for waste being treated on site. Case submitted by E. Bald and M. Bravo.
- Dacor Inc.in the City of Industry was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Hernandez.
- DL Construction and Remodeling in Calabasas was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by S. Stoute and J. McCarron.
- Dual Graphics Inc. in North Hollywood was fined for exceeding accumulation storage time periods and failure to obtain a hazardous waste generator EPA ID number. Case submitted by D. Yniguez.
- Dura Freight, Inc., in Walnut was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste. Case submitted by J. Stoute



and J. McCarron.

- Emtek Products Inc. in the city of Industry was fined for exceeding accumulation storage time periods, improper disposal of hazardous waste and failure to properly label containers. Case submitted by E. Bald.
- Electrolizing Inc. in Los Angeles was fined for exceeding accumulation storage time periods, failure to maintain/ operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and failure to properly label and keep closed hazardous waste containers. Case submitted by M. Cervantes and M. Mekasha.
- J & R Bottling & Distributing Co. Inc. in Montebello was fined for failure to report a release, failure to conduct a Cal ARP accident investigation and failure to conduct a risk management plan compliance audit. Case submitted by M. Whitehead.
- LA Web Offset Printing Inc. in El Monte was fined for exceeding accumulation storage time periods, failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste, improper disposal of hazardous waste and failure to properly label hazardous waste containers. Case submitted by A. De Silva.
- Liberty Metals in Los Angeles was fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and for unauthorized processing of appliances without approval from DTSC. Case submitted by G. To.
- Metal Preparations Inc. in Los Angeles was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards, failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste and failure to meet requirements for the treatment of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Bald.
- Monogram Aerospace Fasteners in Commerce was fined for not meeting hazardous waste tank standards. Case submitted by E. Bald.
- Pacific Die Casting Corp. in Commerce was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste and for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by T. Zehdar.
- Patina V in the City of Industry was fined for the improper disposal of hazardous waste and for failure to maintain/ operate a facility to prevent a release of hazardous waste. Case submitted by E. Bald
- Praxair Inc. in Carson was fined for failure to report a release and failure to submit a Risk Management Plan 5year update to the administrative agency. Case submitted by F. Khaledan.

(Continuation on page 9)

Home, Schools and Water Companies with Chlorination Process By Michael Whitehead

Raw water goes through disinfection processes at water companies before being distributed through water lines to faucets for drinking, swimming and irrigation. According to the California Department of Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, there are 173 water companies in the Los Angeles region. Chlorination, a common method of disinfection, kills the Escherichia coli, Hepatitis A, Giardia and Cryptosporidium that could be in raw water, by destroying their lipids and enzymes. Chlorine and sodium hypochlorite are hazardous materials because they can cause pulmonary edema, bronchial irritation, eye irritation. Chlorine, moreover, can be lethal if inhaled.

Water companies in urban and suburban areas are close to homes and schools. Because chlorine is a regulated substance under California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) program regulations, water companies that use chlorine develop and implement Risk Management Plans (RMP) under the oversight of Hazardous Materials Specialists in the CalARP unit at the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD).

The RMP has three significant provisions. Offsite consequences analysis shows the potential dangers to public health and safety of unplanned releases of regulated substances. At a disinfection process of a water company, a release of chlorine gas from a 5-foot tall cylinder could endanger people who are a quarter-mile away. Based on the distance to this toxic endpoint for chlorine in the offsite consequences analysis, the water company evaluates the engineering and administrative controls for preventing loss of containment. This provision in the RMP, called the prevention program, has information about the chlorine and equipment, an evaluation of the safeguards, operating procedures, maintenance procedures, training program, auditing reports, and incident investigation process. The distance to the toxic endpoint is a reference to the last provision of the RMP: its emergency response procedures. These are to protect the public from the inhalation hazard of chlorine. The effectiveness of emergency response procedures depends on the water company making immediate verbal notification to the emergency response and disaster preparedness system, the HHMD and the California Office of Emergency Services. The emergency responders who are dispatched by these three entities use the results of offsite consequences analysis to conduct evacuation proce-

Chlorine gas and its equipment are relatively inexpensive and simple to use for disinfecting raw water compared to sodium hypochlorite and its equipment. It is more efficient to disinfect water with gas than with sodium hypochlorite. With the cost savings from chlorine gas, consultants are hired to develop and revalidate risk management plans.

The Unified Program Agency (UPA) inspector respects the





decision of water companies to use either chlorine gas processes or sodium hypochlorite processes. Instead of discouraging water companies from choosing chlorine gas to disinfect water, the UPA inspector coordinates decisions with the water company to develop and implement chlorine gas processes safely. This coordination intends to protect the population identified in the offsite consequences analysis.

According to the Gas Chlorine Institute Committee, negative talk about chlorine gas arises out of myths rather than facts. This committee reveals that there are seven times more accidents involving sodium hypochlorite than there are involving chlorine gas. The committee also says that sodium hypochlorite costs three times as much as chlorine gas to operate a disinfection process.

The bottom line is that the UPA inspector and the water company work together toward a solution that will ensure the water quality is good for the customers and the safety of neighboring residents, students, teachers, patients and health care providers. Good technology, maintenance, emergency response training and relations with the community are the most important pathways towards health and safety of everyone, whether the disinfection process uses sodium hypochlorite or chlorine gas.

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SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND INSPECTION By Ruben Garcia & Paolo Zenarosa

If you think working in the Health Hazardous Materials Division is not interesting enough- guess again. In the Southwest District Inspection Office, for example, there are plenty of opportunities to see interesting places once out in the field. In addition to experiencing complex and challenging inspections of all major oil refineries in Los Angeles County, the district covers two coastal islands in Southern California: Santa Catalina Island and San Clemente Island.

Like Santa Catalina Island, San Clemente Island is part of Los Angeles County District 4. It is 55 nautical miles south of Long Beach and is part of the California Channel Islands. The island is 21 miles long. It is owned and operated by the U.S. Navy and is accessible from the mainland through U.S. Naval Base Coronado (NBC) on Coronado Island in San Diego County.

The inspection of San Clemente Island is arranged two months before the actual inspection date by obtaining authorization from the Navy's Natural and Cultural Resources Operations to inspect facilities on the island. That includes scheduling an escort into the naval base in Coronado Island and San Clemente Island and setting up a military flight to San Clemente Island from the naval base airport on Coronado Island. Planning a San Clemente Island inspection is unlike any other inspection because of the amount of required document review, authorizations, approvals, and waivers to obtain from L.A. County and the Navy prior to doing field work. Overall, the list includes obtaining a County travel approval, County vehicle use approval, Navy security clearance, Naval base flight approval, Naval base emergency contact form, an appointment with a Naval base environmental official on Coronado Island, and an appointment with a U.S. Defense Department environmental official on San Clemente Island.

Going to the Naval base begins at 2 a.m., driving112 miles from Los Angeles to downtown San Diego and then to Coronado Island. From this island, one has to board a 15-seat propeller plane to fly 70 miles onto San Clemente Island. It is important to get an early flight in order to complete your inspections prior to the last flight back to the mainland at 3 p.m.

Despite the many buildings and facilities to be inspected, the entire island only has four CUPA permits: Hazardous Materials (HM), Hazardous Waste (HW), Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST) and Underground Storage Tanks (L.A. Public Works). However, the inspection itself is comprised of inspecting the many base facilities, which is the size of a small city. The island base has its own power plant, sewage treatment facility, AST fuel depots for military land, air and water vehicles, HW accumulation areas, auto maintenance shops, boat maintenance shops, many larger 100,000+ gallon AST for jet fuel, a wind powered farm, conservancy research centers, cell towers, backup generators, boats docks, the airport, the galley and much more. The majority of staff that run the daily operations of the island is made up of civilian contractors.



While conducting inspections, it was easy to get distracted by constant military activities such as hearing live ammunition, seeing military jumbo jets practicing landing and takeoff, Navy Hellcat hovercrafts landing on the beach and Navy troops practicing landing their watercraft on the beach.

It is important to note that the U.S. Defense Department environmental officials are well versed in HW and HM regulations, organized and very efficient with time during the inspection of each facility on the island. Even though San Clemente Island appears initially to be barren, the island remains home to many unique plant species and animals that are only found on the island and are sensitive to invasive species from the mainland. The Navy understands that its personnel are not the only ones that call San Clemente Island their home. Because of this, they work together with natural resource conservation groups to protect and support unique island wildlife, including the San Clemente Island fox and finch.

The inspection of San Clemente Island has its many demands and rewards. Even though the island is located at the far reaches of L.A. County, and despite the many administrative and logistic challenges in reaching the location, the goal of environmental protection continues to be applied through the joint efforts of HHMD and the U.S. military authorities.



ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION AND SKIN CANCER- By the Editor

American non-fiction author and journalist Charles Bowden once said, "Summertime is always the best of what might be." This is the time when we go out and enjoy activities like hiking, fishing, backyard barbecue, beach volleyball, sunbathing or just hanging out with friends. We relish the hot and sunny days, oblivious to the sinister effects of ultraviolet radiation (UVR).

While small amounts of UVR are essential for the production of vitamin D in people for bone health, overexposure may result in acute and chronic health effects on the skin, eye and immune system. The immediate effects of excessive UVR exposure include sunburn, eye damage and suppression of the immune system, while the long-term effects include premature aging of the skin, wrinkles and skin cancer.

According to the CDC, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. The vast majority of skin cancers are caused by unprotected exposure to excessive UVR, primarily from the sun. The most serious form of skin cancer is melanoma, which is expected to be diagnosed in about 70,230 persons this year and is responsible for the most skin cancer deaths with over 9,000 each year. There are two other forms of skin cancer —basal cell and squamous cell - that are highly curable. Melanoma is primarily a disease that afflicts white people- rates are more than 10 times higher in white people than in African Americans. The incidence of melanoma in the U.S. has been increasing for at least 30 years in part due to changes in behavior that have resulted in increased exposure to solar UVR and use of indoor tanning booths by white young adult women. Melanoma is the fifth most common cancer for men, and is the seventh most common cancer for women. More than 90 percent of melanoma cases in the United States are attributed to skin cell damage from UVR exposure.

Epidemiological studies show that cutaneous melanoma occurrence is associated more with intentional UVR exposure, which is motivated by the desire to acquire a tan by exposing significant portions of the trunk, shoulders and limbs for extended periods of time. Squamous cell carcinoma occurrence has been associated with non-intentional sun exposures that occur during daily outdoor activities in sunny conditions (e.g., gardening or outdoor workers). Basal cell carcinoma occurrence has been associated with both types of sun exposure.

The American Cancer Society enumerates the risk factors for melanoma and other skin cancers:

- · Personal or family history of melanoma
- Light skin or sun-sensitive (i.e., those who sunburn easily)
- Presence of moles and freckles
- History of excessive sun exposure, including severe sunburn
- Exposure to indoor tanning booths occurring early in life



Risk factors for basal and squamous cell cancers are:

- · Chronic exposure to the sun
- · Personal or family history of skin cancer

The World Health Organization recommends taking the following simple steps for sun protection:

- Shade, sunglasses, clothing and hats provide the best protection —applying sunscreen becomes necessary on those parts of the body that remain exposed, like the face and hands. Sunscreen should never be used to prolong the duration of sun exposure.
- Limit time in the midday sun. The sun's UV rays are the strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Take particular care when in the sun during these hours.
- Watch the UV index. This important resource helps you plan your outdoor activities in ways that prevent overexposure to the sun's rays. When the UV Index is moderate, i.e. a UVI of 3 or above, sun protection is required.
- Use shade wisely. Seek shade when UV rays are the most intense, but keep in mind that shade structures such as trees, umbrellas or canopies do not offer complete sun protection.
- Wear protective clothing. A hat with a wide brim offers good sun protection for your eyes, ears, face, and the back or your neck. Sunglasses that provide 99 to 100 percent UV-A and UV-B protection will greatly reduce eye damage from sun exposure. Tightly woven, loose fitting clothes that covers as much of the body as possible will provide additional protection from the sun.
- Use sunscreen. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30+ liberally to exposed skin and re-apply every two hours, or after working, swimming, playing or exercising outdoors.
- Avoid sunlamps and tanning parlors. Sunbeds and sunlamps increase the risk of skin cancer and can damage unprotected eyes. They should be avoided entirely.

Individuals at high risk for skin cancer should undergo periodic screening by a trained provider. Screening examinations consist of a total body skin examination to look for new or changing skin lesions. Suspicious growths or a progressive change in a lesion's appearance (size, shape, color, etc.) should be evaluated promptly by a physician.

Although the burden of skin cancer is increasing, it is estimated that a substantial number of new cases could be prevented by following effective prevention strategies to reduce sun exposure, facilitate sun protection, prevent sunburn and reduce indoor tanning.

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